

***Paramonacanthus oblongus*, the correct name for the Indo-Pacific fish currently called *P. japonicus*, with a recommendation on the nomenclature of *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Tetraodontiformes, Monacanthidae)**

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Members of the monacanthid genus *Paramonacanthus* Bleeker are small fishes (commonly known as leatherjackets and filefishes) that inhabit flat silty and sandy bottoms throughout the Indo-West Pacific. The genus was recently revised by Hutchins (1997), who recognised 11 species. Among these was *P. japonicus* (Tilesius, 1810) from the eastern Indian and West Pacific Oceans. However, we have since discovered that Tilesius's name is preoccupied and here correct the nomenclature of the species, as well as provide a new recommendation concerning *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Schlegel, 1850) from Japan and China.

Paramonacanthus japonicus was originally described (as *Balistes japonicus*) by Tilesius (1810) on the basis of a single specimen (presently lost) from Japan (see Hutchins, 1997: 29). However, Tilesius was unaware that *Balistes japonicus* had been used earlier by Walbaum (1792). Walbaum's description is very brief, but is nevertheless sufficient to make the name available:

"Species adhuc dubiae

20. BALISTES, *japonicus*, radiis pinnae dorsalis 3 v. 4. W. Balistes monoceros. *Einhörnliche Hoorwisch*. Houttuyni. *Act. Harl.* XX. P. 2. n. 33. D. 3–4. P. 13. V ... A... C. 14. Longitudo 6 unciarum. Color subfuscus vel cinereus. Anteriorum radiorum unus exit in longum filum."

This indicates that Walbaum's description was based on the earlier account of Houttuyn (1782) under the name *Balistes monoceros*. Houttuyn's description (p. 345) is reproduced here:

"34. (stated as 33 by Walbaum) BALISTES MONOCEROS.

Eenhoornige Hoorwisch

Van deezen Visch, die in de beide Indien huisvest, heb ik een schoon groot Exemplaar van Japan ontvangen. Het is meer dan zes Duimen lang, en overtrest dus in groote de Afbeelding van een zodanigen, welke ik volgens een Voorwerp, uit het Kabinet van den Wel Ed. Heer W. VAN DER MEULEN, nu ruim zestien Jaaren geleeden, aan't licht bragt (*h*). In Kleur niet alleen, die bruin is of graauw, mar ook in de telling der Vinstraalen, komt het daar

mede vry wel overeen: want ik vind in de Rugvin en Aarsvin, beiden, *drie* of *vierendertig*, in de Borstvinnen *dertien*, en in de Staartvin *veertien* Straalen. Het byzonderste is, dat een der voorsten van de Rugvin uitloopt in een langen Draad."

Our translation of Houttuyn's description is as follows:

"These fish that live in both Indies I have received a good example from Japan. It is more than 6 thumbs long. I compared it with a figure of something similar which was brought to light 16 years ago from the cabinet of Mr W. van der Meulen. It compares well not only in colour which is dull brown but also in the fin rays: the back fin and anal fin both three or four and thirty (= thirty-three or thirty-four), the breast fin thirteen and the tail fin fourteen rays. The most outstanding feature is the first of the back fin which runs in one long thread."

Walbaum's description deviates from Houttuyn's in several features, most notably in recording only 3–4 dorsal rays and not providing a count for the anal fin. We surmise that this may have resulted from confusion over his translation of Houttuyn's phrase: "want ik vind in de Rugvin en Aarsvin, beiden, *drie* of *vierendertig*" (see above). Apparently it was also enough to cause subsequent workers to ignore Walbaum's name.

Houttuyn's description appears to have been based on a species belonging to the Monacanthidae. It was, as stated in the introduction to Houttuyn's paper, collected by Carel (= Carl) Thunberg in Japan and provided to Houttuyn through the auspices of J.C.M. Radermacher. The meristic values—allowing for a count of 14 caudal-fin rays which is two more than is typical for the family—and elongate, threadlike filament in the dorsal fin suggest that it was based on *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Schlegel, 1850). There are no balistids in the Japanese region that possess an elongate ray anteriorly in the soft dorsal fin and the only other Japanese monacanthid so adorned is *Pervagor nigrolineatus* (Herre), a species that occurs in the

Ryukyu Islands (Matsuura and Sunobe, 1990) and possesses only 25–30 anal-fin rays (Hutchins, 1986). Therefore *Balistes japonicus* Walbaum, 1792, is most likely a senior synonym of the species originally described by Schlegel (1850) as *Monacanthus cirrhifer*. However, as mentioned above, we are unaware of the use of Walbaum's name for this or any other species since it was first described. Conversely, *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* has been universally applied to this species in recent literature (see below), and we thus advocate its continued use.

Article 23.9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature requires that the adoption of a younger name over a disused older one must be accompanied by evidence that the younger name has been used as the presumed valid name in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years, and spanning at least 10 years. Therefore, the following works are submitted here to fulfil this requirement: Abe (1986), Burgess and Axelrod (1972), Chyung (1961, 1977), FAO (1992), Kamohara (1967), Konishi (1995), Masuda and Allen (1987), Masuda *et al.* (1975, 1984); Masuda and Kobayashi (1994), Matsuura (1979), Murofushi and Yosida (1979), Nakabo (1993), Okada (1955), Patzner and Moosleitner (1999), Randall *et al.* (1997), Safran (1990), Safran and Omori (1990), Shen (1994), Shiino (1972), Sokolovskaya *et al.* (1998), Taguchi (1985), Tyler (1980), and Vasil'yev (1980).

According to Article 57.2 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, *Balistes japonicus* Tilesius (1810) is a junior primary homonym of *Balistes japonicus* Walbaum (1792), and is thus permanently invalid. Hutchins (1997) showed that the next available name for Tilesius's species is *Monacanthus oblongus* Schlegel (1850). Hutchins noted that Schlegel's description is composite, being based on specimens of the present species and *Thamnaconus septentrionalis* (Günther); he also noted that the "type illustration" was based on a male of the present species. However, he was unaware that Boeseman (1947: 209) had also showed that Schlegel's description was a combination of two species, and had in turn designated a lectotype for the species (Boeseman's description of the lectotype [RMNH 4133b] clearly identifies it with a male specimen of the species called *Paramonacanthus japonicus* by Hutchins, 1997). The correct name for this species thus becomes *Paramonacanthus oblongus* (Schlegel, 1850).

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